



STERIGENICS HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING ETHYLENE OXIDE EMISSIONS

Vehicle EO Emissions in DuPage County 18 Times Greater Than Emissions from Willowbrook Facility

*EO Emissions from Recent Construction and Diesel Generator Near Willowbrook Facility Likely Captured
in EPA Monitoring*

Recent Research Provides New Perspectives Regarding Health Risks of EO Emissions

May 29, 2019 – Chicago, IL – Sterigenics, a leading provider of mission-critical sterilization services using only processes registered with the Food & Drug Administration for sterilizing certain medical devices, today released important new details regarding sources of ethylene oxide (EO) emissions in the Chicago area and highlighted new, independent, peer-reviewed research which provides new perspectives regarding the potential health risks of EO.

An independent analysis (summary found [here](#)) conducted in the Chicago area found that vehicles release approximately 52,000 pounds of EO in the area per year. Furthermore, vehicles alone account for approximately 6,800 pounds of EO emissions in DuPage County per year. By comparison, the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility emitted approximately 380 pounds of EO per year when it was most recently operating.

Phillip Macnabb, President of Sterigenics said, “As the U.S. EPA has already indicated, there are multiple sources of EO in the Willowbrook area. EO emissions from vehicles in DuPage County are approximately 18 times greater than the amount of EO released by the Willowbrook facility, clearly indicating that cars and trucks are a significant contributor to EO levels in the air around Willowbrook. Our research also shows that, in addition to vehicles, recent construction and the operation of a diesel generator near our Willowbrook facility likely contribute to EO emissions measured by the U.S. EPA in its ambient air monitoring program.”

Sterigenics also highlighted the findings of two recent studies which examined the potential health risks of EO. A study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (found [here](#)) reevaluated the historical exposures to EO among sterilization workers in the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study cohort. The NIOSH cohort study findings were relied upon by the U.S. EPA in its 2016 IRIS risk assessment. The review found that the trend in EO exposures during the study period was opposite the trend indicated in the NIOSH study “suggesting that the US EPA’s exclusive reliance on the NIOSH cohort to estimate EO cancer risk should be re-examined.”

Additionally, a recent study appearing in The International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health (IAOEH) conducted a systematic literature review and meta-analysis of studies of cancer risks among workers exposed to EO (summary found [here](#)). Based on their review, the researchers concluded that the most recent and informative studies on the topic “do not support the conclusion that exposure



to EO during production or use in sterilization processes" is associated with an increased risk of lymphohematopoietic cancers (LHC) or breast cancer.

Macnabb continued, "Establishing sound public policy to protect the citizens in our communities requires accurate information and reliable data. These recent studies examine important elements regarding the sources and potential health risks of EO and provide critical data that are essential in establishing the best policy to keep the public safe. Sterigenics remains committed to working with regulators, legislators and Illinois public officials to evolve regulations and continuously improve our operations in the ongoing interest of public safety."

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